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1945

With the Colors: Jasper County IL Servicemen
Overseas, 1941-1945

7-7-1945

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With the Colors

July 6, 1945

Technical Sergeant Franklin D. Jones writes his mother, Mrs. Anna Jones, of Newton, from somewhere on Luzon island in the Philippines: "We finally arrived here a few days ago but this is only another temporary station and we will not be here long enough to get any mail. I visited the city of Manila where Robert Robb worked. It is a mass of ruins but they are rebuilding it as fast as they can.

"I am enclosing some Jap invasion money, which is plentiful here and not worth the paper it's printed on. I can now begin to realize the destruction and suffering of war. No one in the United States can imagine what their War Bonds are doing until they see it. We should never kick about rationing because we soldiers really get everything you are giving up. The food is good.

"The weather is rainy and the ground is muddy. We sleep in tents, wash and shave out of our helmets, have the natives do our clothes and everyone does a job. I like it here fine because I like hot weather. Maybe I can lose a little weight.

"The natives here are very colorful and wear bright clothes. They come right in the camp and in your tents, selling pineapples, bananas and coconuts, which they carry in large woven trays balanced on their heads. The little boys call all of us Joe. I went to an open air show last night and had some nice entertainment."

Gunner's Mate First Class and Mrs. John A. Connor are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. O. Connor, and his sister, Mrs. Ladora Leggitt of Newton. John, who was injured when his ship was sunk off Okinawa, May 18, can't hear out of one ear yet, but hopes his hearing will clear up in time.

Seaman First Class Joseph Volk has been spending a leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Volk of South Muddy township. He has been a member of the armed guard crew on a merchant ship.

Mrs. Margaret Kellogg of Newton is visiting Mrs. W. H. Barricklow and family of Arcola, this week.

Arthur W. Alexander, son of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Alexander, has applied for enlistment in the Navy at the local recruiting station. He went to Springfield, Tuesday afternoon, for his final physical examination and enlistment. He will take the radar tests at Springfield.

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Major Homer Kasserman is here from Oakland, California, where he is stationed at the Quartermaster depot. He was called here by the critical illness of his father, John Kasserman. Mr. Kasserman Sr. was somewhat better, Thursday.

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Sergeant William Warren Jones is home on a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Jones of near Falmouth. He served with a Medical battalion and was in France, Belgium and Germany before returning to the

United States.

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First Lieutenant Otis Maxwell has been spending a few days with his wife and children at Newton, enroute to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He recently completed a sixty day leave here after two years overseas.

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Mr. and Mrs. James Bailey have received word from their son, Aviation Cadet Francis Bailey, that he will receive his primary flight training at the Bunker Hill training school, Peru, Indiana.

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Private First Class Donnace Emery has landed in the United States after two years overseas, he has written his father, Frank Emery of Newton. He expects to be home soon.

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Staff Sergeant Vincent B. Boehl of Huntsville, Alabama, is spending a few days' furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Boehl and family of the Bend.

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Corporal Francis Kinsel is here from Clovis, New Mexico, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy F. Kinsel of near Newton. He is a cook in the Air Force.